

**DRAFT AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
U.S. Application No. 09/787,706

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Goldenberg, the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable (obvious) over Goldenberg in view of Masuda, the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable (obvious) over Goldenberg, the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable (obvious) over Goldenberg in view of Paul, and the rejection of claims 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable (obvious) over Goldenberg in view of Bouchet.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejections are based on a misinterpretation of Goldenberg's disclosure.

First, the new independent claim 13 comprises features substantially similar to those of claims 1 and 3 and further recites that each of the first and second cases is individually sealed, as described in the specification on page 2, lines 30-31. Dependent claim 14 corresponds to original claim 2.

The new independent claim 15 recites features substantially similar to those of claims 1 and 6 and further recites that each of the first and second cases is individually sealed, as described in the specification on page 2, lines 30-31. Dependent claims 16-21 corresponds to original claims 7-12, respectively.

*Claim rejections under 35 USC § 102*

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being "anticipated" by US Patent 5,479,381 to Goldenberg. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is not correct because Goldenberg fails to disclose all of the limitations recited in claims 1, 3, 4 and/or

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6, as is required for a rejection based on anticipation; that is, these claims are not readable on Goldenberg (when properly interpreted).

It is correct that Goldenberg discloses a reversible timepiece such as a wristwatch, comprising two opposite faces 20 and 30 each including a separate watch movement 22 and 32, respectively, said movements controlling two respective displays and being mounted in a back-to-back arrangement to form an assembly that is attached to the opposite ends of a flexible watchband 50.

However, Goldenberg's disclosure is **unclear** on several points regarding the structure of the case of the reversible watch. On one hand, a single watch case appears in the general views of Figs. 1-3; the watch case is mentioned in the specification only in column 3, lines 33-34, namely as a single case. On the other hand, Figs. 4 and 5, showing the two movements and faces of the timepiece, could be interpreted as showing two case portions each having identical pairs of horns. However, there is no description of means for securing said case portions to each other. The portions might be glued to each other. If the watch case actually had two such portions, a separation line between these portions should be visible in Figs. 1-3. Furthermore, since the watch movements 22 and 32 are visible in Fig. 5 (see column 2, lines 51-56), it is clear that said case portions have no back cover. Finally, when one considers the configuration of the horns shown in Figs. 4 and 5, one **cannot** understand how these horns could be combined to form the horns shown in Figs. 1-3. Anyway, the pairs of horns could **not** be connected to each other by a bar as specified in Applicant's claim 3.

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As explained in Applicant's specification on page 2, lines 28-34, the basic concept of the present invention is to form a reversible wristwatch by assembling, in a removable manner, two complete watch cases of a common type, in particular waterproof sealed cases, in a back-to-back relationship such that their respective back covers are adjacent to each other. The Goldenberg reference fails to anticipate such concept since it **fails to disclose** two cases each having a back cover, and any "securing element" for removably securing the cases to each other.

Hence claim 1 and its dependent claims 3, 4 and 6 are clearly novel over (i.e., are not readable on) Goldenberg's disclosure.

*Claim rejections under USC 35 § 103*

According to claim 2, "each case of the reversible watch contains an electric battery and includes a battery hatch provided with a removable cover in its back cover". The result is that these hatches and covers are concealed when both case are secured in their normal back-to-back position, but are readily accessible when the cases are separated (see the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 in the specification).

As explained above, Goldenberg fails to disclose use of two watch cases, each having a back cover, and means for removably securing the cases to each other, as claimed in claim 1, and further fails to disclose the features of claim 2.

Masuda does not even address the structure of a reversible watch and, hence, understandably does not provide any specific teaching in this regard. Applicant acknowledges that Masuda discloses a wristwatch comprising a first case and a second case that is movably mounted on the first case, each case containing its own battery 22, 25. However, Masuda, like

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Goldenberg, fails to disclose that both cases, when placed in superposed relationship, have adjacent back covers, and that each of the back covers has a battery hatch and a removable cover on the hatch. Obviously, as shown in Figs. 3, 5 and 8 of Masuda, battery 25 of the lower case 2 can be replaced **only** by opening the bottom plate 2b which lies on the side opposite to the upper case 2.

Hence, **no** combination, whether obvious or not, of the cited references would suggest or produce the combination of features of claims 1 and 2 (2/1).

The Examiner's rejection of claim 5 over Goldenberg is flawed in that it refers to "the horn assembly used by Goldenberg" (e.g., on page 4, lines 4-5, of the Office Action). However, Goldenberg does **not disclose** such an "assembly". Hence, the specific structure recited in claim 5 would not have been obvious from, and cannot be considered as an alternative to, Goldenberg's disclosed structure.

The Examiner has made the same misinterpretation regarding claim 7 (dependent on claim 6, which should be **allowable**), because Goldenberg does **not disclose** any means for securing one case portion to the other, and, moreover, does **not disclose** cases each having a back cover. Furthermore, the secondary reference, Pauli, fails to disclose any "securing elements" on the back cover of a watch case. Thus, **no** combination of the teachings of these two references would suggest or produce the combination of features recited in Applicant's claim 7 (7/6/1).

Claim 8 (8/1) and its dependent claims have been rejected as being unpatentable (obvious) over Goldenberg in view of Bouchet. Claim 8 substantially defines an embodiment

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wherein the assembly formed of two cases, as defined in claim 1, can be reversed by pivoting and sliding on two parallel bars of a support secured to a wristband. Thus, both ends of the wristband are connected to each other through the rigid support and **not** through the mobile watch case.

Clearly, then, Goldenberg does not disclose or suggest all the features of the parent claim 1, in particular the combination of two watch cases having back covers adjacent to each other. Goldenberg also fails to disclose the features of dependent claim 8.

Furthermore, Bouchet describes a reversible wristwatch having a single case with two faces. As explained in column 2, lines 1-22, each end of the watch case is pivotally mounted on a respective bar 2, 3 intended to be connected to a corresponding end of a strap. Bars 2 and 3 are connected to each other **only** by the flexible strap and **cannot** be compared to Applicant's claimed "support". Each bar can pivot on the case independently from the other bar. Furthermore, Bouchet does not at all suggest that the case might slide on the bars, a movement that is **impossible** in the context of Bouchet's disclosure. The Examiner's assertions (on page 5, last paragraph) regarding a sliding movement in Bouchet are simply **unsupportable**.

Hence, neither Goldenberg nor Bouchet, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests that the reversible assembly of two cases could pivot and slide on a "support" connecting both ends of the wristband according to claim 8, and furthermore according to the dependent claims 9-12.

In summary, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the prior art rejections of claims 1-12, and to find the application to be in condition for allowance with all the claims 1-21.

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**REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW**

However, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to **call the undersigned Attorney** to discuss any unresolved issues (especially, if necessary, the interpretation of Goldenberg's disclosure) and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicant files concurrently herewith a Petition (with fee) for an Extension of Time of two (2) months.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**APPENDIX**  
**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

The specification is changed as follows:

Please delete in its entirety the fourth full paragraph on page 9, and insert the following:

It will be noted that the watch shown in Figures 4 to 7 could also include stop members to prevent the movable case moving to the left beyond positions (a) and (e) of Figure 4. For example, ends 142 and 143 of slide-way 140 could be deepened or widened locally so that clicks 144 engage more deeply therein. Another solution consists in providing at least one stop projecting at the left end of each face 117 of bars 110, to act as a stop for the movable case. A stop of this type may also be formed by an element connecting the left ends of the two bars to form a rigid U-shaped frame. Plate 122 could then be omitted.

Page 2, after the last paragraph, insert the following heading:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A reversible wristwatch including a first case (~~1, 101~~) enclosing first elements able to control a first display (~~3, 103~~) and a second case (~~2, 102~~) enclosing second elements able to control a second display (~~104~~), said first and second cases each having a back cover (~~85, 86, 125, 126~~) and being placed back-to-back, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each of said first and second cases (~~1, 2, 101, 102~~) includes at least one securing element (~~4, 5, 135, 136~~)

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arranged to be secured in a removable manner to a corresponding securing element of the other of said first and second cases, to secure the first and second cases to each other in a position in which their respective back covers are adjacent.

2. (Amended) ~~Wristwatch according to~~ The wristwatch of claim 1, characterised in that wherein each case contains an electric battery and includes a battery hatch ~~(83, 127, 128)~~ provided with a removable cover in its back cover.

3. (Thrice amended) ~~The wristwatch according to~~ of claim 1, characterised in that wherein the securing elements of each of the first and second cases ~~(1, 2)~~ include horns ~~(4, 5)~~ through which bars ~~(6, 7, 8, 9)~~ pass, said bars acting both as means for securing the first case ~~(1)~~ to the second case ~~(2)~~ and means for securing opposite ends ~~(10, 11, 12, 13)~~ of the wristband ~~(14, 15)~~ to an assembly formed by said first and second cases.

4. (Amended) ~~Wristwatch according to~~ The wristwatch of claim 3, characterised in that wherein the first ~~(1)~~ and second ~~(2)~~ cases include at six o'clock and a twelve o'clock a pair of horns ~~(16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23)~~ provided with holes ~~(24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31)~~, each horn ~~(16, 17, 20, 21)~~ of the first case ~~(1)~~ being juxtaposed with a horn ~~(18, 19, 22, 23)~~ of the second ~~(2)~~ case when said cases are placed back-to-back to define, at six o'clock and at twelve o'clock a recess ~~(32, 33)~~ occupied by the corresponding end ~~(11, 10)~~ of the wristband ~~(14)~~, said ends ~~(11, 10)~~ being provided with a hole ~~(34, 35)~~ arranged in alignment with the holes of the horns to accommodate the bars ~~(7, 6)~~ securing the first case to the second and the wristband to the assembly thereby formed.



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5. (Amended) ~~Wristwatch according to~~ The wristwatch of claim 3, characterized in  
~~that wherein~~ the first-(1) and second-(2) cases include at six o'clock and twelve o'clock four  
horns-(5), each horn of the first case being superposed on and encased in a horn of the second  
case when said cases are placed back-to-back to define at six o'clock and twelve o'clock three  
recesses-(36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41) which are occupied by the corresponding end-(13, 12) of the  
wristband-(15) divided into three sections-(42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47), the first case having at six  
o'clock and in order, a first male horn-(48) provided with a hole-(49) and encased in a first  
female horn-(50) of the second case-(2), second-(51) and third-(52) female horns respectively  
encased in second-(53) and third-(54) male horns of the second case-(2), said horns each being  
provided with a hole-(55, 56), and a fourth male horn-(57) provided with a hole-(58) and encased  
in a fourth female horn-(59) of the second case, (2) said first case-(1) having, at twelve o'clock  
and in order, a first female horn-(60) encased on a first male horn-(61) of the second case-(2),  
said horn-(61) being provided with a hole-(62), second-(63) and third-(64) male horns each  
provided with a hole-(65, 66) and respectively encased in second-(67) and third-(68) female  
horns of the second case, and a fourth female horn-(69) encased in a fourth male horn-(70) of the  
second case-(2), said horn-(70) being provided with a hole-(71), each of the three sections-(42,  
43, 44, 45, 46, 47) of the ends-(13, 12) of the wristband-(15) being provided with a hole-(72, 73,  
74, 75, 76, 77) arranged in alignment with the holes of the horns to accommodate the bars (8, 9)  
which secure the first case-(1) to the second case-(2) and the wristband-(15) to the assembly  
thereby formed.

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6. (Amended) ~~Wristwatch according to~~ The wristwatch of claim 1, characterised in that wherein said securing elements ~~(135, 136)~~ are arranged on the back cover of each case.
7. (Amended) ~~Wristwatch according to~~ The wristwatch of claim 6, characterised in that wherein the securing elements ~~(135, 136)~~ include assembly elements of the dovetail type.
8. (Thrice amended) ~~The wristwatch according to~~ of claim 1, characterised in that wherein the first and second cases secured to each other form a movable case ~~(100)~~, which is mounted so as to pivot and slide on a support ~~(105)~~ secured to a wristband ~~(108)~~, the support having two parallel lateral bars ~~(110)~~ connected to each other, between which the movable case occupies two mutually reversed use positions, in which two opposite lateral faces ~~(141)~~ of the movable case extend along said bars.
9. (Twice amended) ~~Wristwatch according to~~ The wristwatch of claim 8, characterised in that wherein each lateral bar ~~(110)~~ of the support is provided with an articulation trunnion ~~(118)~~ which is engaged in a slide-way ~~(140)~~ of the corresponding lateral face ~~(141)~~ of the movable case, and ~~in that wherein~~ said slide-way ~~(140)~~ is formed by juxtaposing two recesses ~~(133, 134)~~ of L-shaped profile, each arranged along an edge of the back cover of each case.
10. (Twice amended) ~~Wristwatch according to~~ The wristwatch of claim 9, characterised in that wherein each lateral bar ~~(110)~~ of the support is provided with securing means including a removable bar ~~(115)~~ for securing it to the wristband and ~~in that wherein~~ said trunnion ~~(118)~~ is secured to a removable part ~~(119)~~ which is held in place on the bar by means of the removable bar ~~(115)~~.

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11. (Amended) ~~Wristwatch according to~~ The wristwatch of claim 8, characterised in  
~~that wherein~~ the movable case ~~(100)~~ slides along the support in a perpendicular direction to the  
wristband.

12. (Amended) ~~Wristwatch according to~~ The wristwatch of claim 8, characterised in  
~~that wherein~~ the movable case slides on the support in a parallel direction to the wristband.

**Claims 13-21 are added as new claims.**

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